

THAW APPEARS CALM AND QUIET

Answers Intelligently Questions Asked by the Commission.

EXPERTS NOT ALLOWED IN COURT

Commission Will Decide Whether or Not the Prisoner is Able to Advise His Counsel in a Rational Manner. Adjourned Until Saturday.

NEW YORK, March 28.—Harry K. Thaw for two hours to-day submitted himself to a running fire of questions from the three men appointed by Justice Fitzgerald as a commission in lunacy to determine his present state of mind. The examination was conducted behind closed doors, and when a few minutes before 5 o'clock this afternoon an adjournment was taken until 10 o'clock Saturday morning, no one connected with the hearing before the commissioners would discuss the details of the inquiry. Thaw went willingly and confidently before his judges, and when the two hours' session was concluded his attorneys appeared with smiling faces, and declared they were more than satisfied with the course of the proceedings. District Attorney Jerome hurried away from the Criminal Courts Building, declining absolutely to say a word about the commission's work.

The most important feature of the day's proceedings was the decision of the commission to limit the scope of its inquiry to the exact language of the statute—to determine solely the question as to whether or not Harry Thaw is able to-day to understand the nature of the court proceedings against him, and is able to advise his counsel in a rational manner. District Attorney Jerome announced to the members of the commission that one of the legal experts he had employed in the case, and him that Thaw is suffering from a typical case of paranoia—a disease of the mind in which the recoveries are limited to two or three per cent. He offered to adduce testimony to support this statement, but the commission waived it aside, saying that the purpose of the inquiry was a very simple one, and had to do with any classification of mental diseases, but with the prisoner's present state of mind as judged by laymen.

In laying down this decision the commission confronted the district attorney with the very position he has maintained in putting Thaw on trial for his life. Mr. Jerome contends that Thaw was suffering from paranoia on the night of the shooting, and that he shot and killed Stanford White, but he added that paranoiacs often have knowledge of what they are doing, and that Thaw knew the nature and quality of his act in killing White, and that the act was wrong. Thus, while medical experts may determine to-day that Thaw is still suffering from paranoia the question to which the lunacy commission has decided to confine itself deals solely with Thaw's knowledge as to the proceedings against him and his ability to advise his lawyers.

The commission got under way with a counsel and plunged at once into the personal examination of the defendant. District Attorney Jerome protested at first that he was not able to proceed, saying that he would like to have the medical advisers present during Thaw's examination. He finally stated that he would have no objection to the examination going forward provided that he was permitted to have the cross-examination. The commission forthwith settled the matter of the presence of experts by excluding them from the room, along with every one else except the defendant and his counsel. District Attorney Garvan, as to the cross-examination by the district attorney, the commission said the matter would be taken up when it was reached.

It is stated that during most of the two hours Thaw was before the commission this afternoon the notes and letters which he has written to his counsel since the trial began were under consideration. To put Thaw thoroughly at ease, the commissioners addressed their questions to him in a casual manner, as though he were in conference with them, asked him from time to time to explain incidents in the trial which had called forth certain of the letters placed before the commission by Thaw's attorneys. It was said that Thaw answered the questions calmly, and went into lengthy explanations of some of the notes he had addressed to Mr. Delmas while his trial was in progress. These notes and letters were made a part of the affidavit filed by Mr. Delmas with Justice Fitzgerald when Thaw's counsel were opposing the appointment of a commission.

Thaw's examination was not concluded to-day, and he will appear again before the commission when it meets Saturday morning, no session being scheduled for to-morrow, Good Friday.

The Saturday session also will be held behind closed doors. The commission had not determined to-day whether or not a physical examination of the defendant would be necessary. There was an intimation, however, that the men who are to report as to Thaw's present condition will content themselves with an observation of him during his mental examination. One of the members of the commission is a physician and an expert on mental diseases, Dr. Leopold Pitzel. If the commission should decide a physical examination is essential, Dr. Pitzel probably will make it.

Attorney Delmas was present at the session to-day, but took no part in the proceedings. It was said. When the inquiry began he directed Chairman McClure to Mr. Hartridge, as the counsel of record for Thaw. Mr. Hartridge said Mr. Hartridge would continue to direct the proceedings before the commission so far as the defense is concerned.

SOUTH BOSTON AGAIN FIRE SWEEP

Flames Destroy Nearly Million Dollars' Worth of Property.

DANVILLE AND DURHAM SEND AID

Only by Aid of Farmer's Engine and Fire Company Was Town Saved—List of Business Houses Destroyed. Starts in Tobacco Factory.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]
SOUTH BOSTON, VA., March 28.—South Boston was visited by the largest fire in its history this afternoon, starting in the large building occupied by R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Company.

The total loss will almost reach \$1,000,000, with about three-fourths insured.

It looked at one time as though the whole business section of the town was going to be wiped out, the fire being confined to the business district, and but for the arrival of assistance from Danville the whole business section, as well as the best residential section would have been burned.

Danville assisted with one of its fire engines, and arrived about two and a half hours after the fire began.

A high wind from the west was blowing, and despite the heroic efforts of the local fire company as well as the Danville company, it seemed almost impossible to prevent the flames from catching the east side of Main Street. Should it have done this there would have been but little hopes entertained for saving many of the valuable business houses as well as residences.

Fire started at 3 P. M. in the re-ordering and drying department of the large plant belonging to and occupied by R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Company, which is a branch of the Continental Tobacco Company, the origin of which is unknown, but is supposed to have caught in the drying machine room, on Shepherd Street, and was not gotten under control until 3:30 P. M. It ate its way to Main Street, up Main to Arch, and down Main to the Southern freight depot, on the west side, excepting the R. W. Lawson Grocery Company.

List of Houses Burned.

The following buildings and contents were consumed: R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Company's plant, at Gull and Mosely, priory occupied by R. J. Reynolds Company, the two buildings containing nearly \$250,000 worth of tobacco—fully insured; storage house belonging to Shepherd and Noblin, used by Terry Grocery Company and H. A. Thomas for storage—partially insured; large frame building owned by Shepherd and Noblin, and occupied by H. A. Thomas, lumber dealer; large priory owned by Shepherd and Noblin, and occupied by George A. Lea Tobacco Company; cottage owned by Gilliland and Mosely, unoccupied; large livery stables owned by Thomas F. Collins—no horses burned; frame building owned by Travers, of Richmond, and occupied by H. A. Thomas, dealer; frame storage building owned by Ed. Blackwell, and occupied by B. Johnson for storage of tobacco; two frame storage houses, one owned by Shepherd and Noblin, the other by Joseph Stebbins, and occupied by Terry Grocery Company and Ed. Blackwell. Most of these buildings were located on Factory Street.

Other buildings burned are Gull's old stables, two small cabins, priory occupied by J. W. Easley, and the following cottages, owned by J. W. Easley: Mrs. W. T. Carter, Banks Adams, Sam Morton, colored, and four by Mrs. Mary Jeffers.

On Union Street were destroyed the old Howard house, owned and occupied by the firm of Stebbins, Lawson & Spraggins Co. These are on the west side of Main Street, going north; the Easley Grocery Co., wholesale grocers, two stores; Easley warehouse and stables; all of these are brick buildings; large frame building owned by Andrews & Perceps, occupied by Virginia Bottling Co. in the basement, and above by Mrs. Joe Williams's restaurant; frame building occupied by C. A. Nesmit, tinner; store occupied by Arch Atkins; small store occupied by George Rice, colored; Patterson's saloon; Morris, barber shop; large brick building owned by Ed. Turner and occupied by E. H. Griffin, harness and saddlery; Club Saloon, conducted by Mr. Ed. Turner; Bank of South Boston building, occupied upstairs by Dan River Telephone Company as central office; the old Boston Hotel building.

(Continued on Third Page.)

JACK TARS PLAY HAVOC ON STEAMER

One Hundred Men of the U. S. S. Connecticut Smash Property on Ocean View.

NORFOLK, VA., March 28.—One hundred sailors from the United States battleship Connecticut, lying in Hampton Roads while en route from Williamsburg to Norfolk, played havoc on the Ocean View, a steamer of the Norfolk and Portsmouth Traction Company, this afternoon, to-day, without apparent cause, took charge of the steamer and put the crew completely to rout. The sailors broke out window lights, broke down doors, smashed the glass in the frames containing the lifeboats, and threw the crew overboard from the galleys, poured out all provisions aboard the steamer, and dumped on deck the fire in the kitchen stove, turned steam on the first extinguisher in the lamp-room, and did other damage.

The officers and crew were powerless and the sailors, as soon as the steamer landed at Port Monroe, jumped to the pier and hurried aboard the battleship. The Connecticut was ordered to leave the pier, but the Traction Company will make out a bill for damages and send the steamer to Captain Swift, commanding the Connecticut, with the request that the same be deducted from the pay of the men who boarded the battleship through Port Monroe immediately after the occurrence.

BIRD'S EYE VIEW OF SOUTH BOSTON; LOWER CUT GIVES MAIN STREET SCENE WHERE FIRE RAGED FIERCELY



RENEW FIGHT FOR MORE DOCK ROOM

T. P. A. Names Committee to Act With Other Organizations.

WOULD ACQUIRE TRIGG SHIP YARDS

Important Matters Discussed Looking to Improvement of Commercial Conditions. Big Companies Are Not Coming Here.

In a session lasting until after 12 o'clock last night, the Travelers' Protective Association disposed of a vast amount of important business, most of which related to improving commercial conditions and to the comfort and convenience of the public during the coming Jamestown Exposition.

One of the most interesting matters which came up was in relation to water transportation and dock facilities for Richmond, and the movement which was on some time ago to acquire the Trigg ship yards property for a great dock was renewed.

A letter was read from Mr. C. D. Coleman, president of the Spence-Nunnemaker Company, calling attention to the importance of making the river more navigable, and of keeping up the competition resulting from better water facilities.

At this point Mr. B. H. Ellington, chairman of a committee named to look into the question of enlarging the dock, reported that his committee had found upon inquiry that the ship yards property can now be acquired without running counter to the time is ripe to renew the fight for a larger dock.

Will Push Matter. On his motion the chair named a committee of four to co-operate with similar committees from the Chamber of Commerce, the Retail Merchants' Association and the Business Men's Club, in bringing the matter to the attention of the Council with a view to having the city acquire the property and make the necessary improvements. It is understood that the land was offered some time ago at \$100,000.

The same committee which heretofore acted in conjunction with one from the Chamber of Commerce in the matter of rates to the Jamestown Exposition over the Chesapeake and Ohio route, was continued for a further conference, with President Stevens. The post decided to join the National Association, which was recently organized here for the purpose of securing better freight transportation facilities throughout the country.

For Civic Improvement. The committee on the establishment of a bureau of information reported that the bureau will be opened as soon as the services of a capable man can be secured for the position of manager, and that the outlook for the success of the proposed institution is very bright. There was a good deal of discussion of the proposition for the better lighting and cleaning of the city during the Jamestown Exposition, and Colonel Harwood reported that his committee was thoroughly interested in the work, and had held several conferences. An additional committee was named to appear with that already at work, and will shortly appear before the Finance Committee of the Council in the interest of the appropriation which will be needed.

As to Smythe Brothers.

Mr. R. W. Spillman, chairman of a committee to see if the firm of Smythe Brothers, horse dealers, of Norfolk, could be induced to bring their business back to Richmond, reported that they had agreed to return provided Richmond would give them \$25,000 to discharge a debt of that amount on their Norfolk plant.

Though the members would be glad to have them return, it is hardly probable that these terms will be accepted by the post.

The question of Richmond's making a fight to secure the great plant of the National Cash Register Company, now located in Dayton, O., was brought up by Mr. E. D. Quarles, but was quickly disposed of by a letter read by Colonel Harwood from the general manager of the company, dated February 26th, saying that a city of less than 200,000 inhabitants would not be considered, even though it should be finally determined to leave Dayton.

The post decided to have its annual meeting on April 6th, and to hold regular meetings hereafter on Saturday, instead of Thursday nights. Officers for the ensuing year will be elected at the annual meeting.

STARTLING TURN IN BRISTOL CASE

Doctors Learn at Coroner's Inquest That Pretty Lillie Davis Had Been Assaulted.

STRONG MOTIVE FOR MURDER

Mrs. Mary Davis Says Daughter Would Have Testified Against Hale's Brother.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]
BRISTOL, TENN., March 28.—Lillie Davis, the pretty young Bristol girl, who was shot and killed in East Hill Cemetery last night, either by her own hand or by Ack Hale, the young man who was in her company, will be buried in the town in which she was to have been married next Sunday. Her fiancé was Dolan McRoberts, who is employed in Wise county, and who was to have arrived here Saturday to complete arrangements for the marriage. McRoberts was wired the news of the tragedy to-day.

A strong motive for murder in this case was revealed to-day. Mrs. Mary Davis, mother of Lillie Davis, states positively that the dead girl was to have appeared as a witness against Roy Hale, a brother of Ack Hale, in the case in which Roy Hale is charged with the murder of Irby Davis, a brother of the dead girl. Roy Hale killed Lillie Davis's brother at Johnson City, Tenn., only a few weeks ago.

Criminally Assaulted. Witnesses have been found who state that they will testify that Ack Hale was abusing Lillie Davis yesterday, preceding the shooting, and that he fired his pistol twice in the back of her head, while she was lying on the ground, and that Hale forced whiskey on the girl, getting her in a serious state of intoxication.

The nature of the wound in the dead girl's breast does not necessarily indicate whether she was murdered or committed suicide. Hale will probably be given a preliminary hearing to-morrow.

A medical examination made to-night in connection with the coroner's inquest over the remains of Lillie Davis revealed evidence that the girl had been criminally assaulted before she met her death. Dr. N. S. Peterson, for the physicians in the case, said that evidence of this character was unmistakable.

POSITIVE THAT MIDGET KILLED SMITH

Prisoner on Trial at Danville Identified by Policeman as Slayer.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]
ALEXANDRIA, VA., March 28.—After examining eighteen witnesses in the case of George Midgets, alias William Johnson, colored, charged with the murder of Charles P. Smith, Governor, on March 26, 1906, the prisoner was positively identified by Policeman Frederick Garvey as the man who killed Smith, he being with Smith when the fatal shot was fired.

This is the first evidence adduced to prove that Midgets was the man who did the shooting. When court adjourned the military conveyed Midgets to the Alexandria county jail. The troops were surrounded by several thousand people, all eager to get a glimpse of the prisoner as they left court. The case will probably be concluded to-morrow.

Killed With Fence Rail.

DOTHAN, ALA., March 28.—In a dispute over a boundary line last night near here, Josiah Houch was struck over the head with a rail by George Smith, causing death. Smith has been arrested.

POPULATION OF U. S. 83,941,510

This Does Not Include Alaska and Insular Possessions, Making 93,182,240.

NEW YORK CITY 4,113,043

Growth of the Country Has Been Marvelous Since 1906—8,000,000 in Six Years.

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 28.—There are now nearly eight million more people in continental United States than there were six years ago.

The above estimate is based upon figures compiled by the Census Bureau in a special report issued to-day. According to its estimates, the population of continental United States in 1906 was 83,941,510, this being an increase over 1900 of 7,946,535. The population of the United States, inclusive of Alaska and the insular possessions, in 1906, was 93,182,240. The growth in population in continental United States from 1905 to 1906 was 1,367,315.

Computed on the basis of the estimate, the density of population of continental United States in 1906 was 23 persons per square mile, as compared with 26 in 1900.

The five leading cities and their estimated population in 1906 are as follows: New York, 4,113,043; Chicago, 2,949,155; Philadelphia, 1,411,735; St. Louis, 649,320; and Boston, 602,278. The States which took a census in 1905 are Florida, Iowa, Kansas, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Jersey, New York, North Dakota, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Wisconsin and Wyoming. In Michigan the census is taken in the years ending with a "4."

The population returns for these States was 25,253,877, an increase since 1900 of 1,901,572, or 7.8 per cent. For the remaining States and Territories the population for 1905, as determined by the method of estimating adopted by the bureau of the census, was 58,253,059, an increase over 1900 of 4,374,040, or 8.4 per cent. The population of the fourteen States making an enumeration, if estimated in the same manner, would be 26,204,762, a difference of only 0.2 per cent. from the actual returns.

The population of continental United States in 1905, as obtained by adding to the returns of the States which took a census in that year, the estimated population of the remaining States and Territories is 82,574,195, an increase over 1900 of 6,579,620, or 8.7 per cent.

The rapid growth of urban population is noteworthy. The eighty-eight cities with an estimated population of 50,000 or more in 1906 had a total estimated population of 19,771,187, an increase of 2,766,832, or 16.3 per cent. over that reported at the twelfth census.

HAMLIN N. LEE FOUGHT FOR NORTH

Kinsman of General Lee and a Virginian, Was in Union Army.

COLORADO SPRINGS, COL., March 28.—Hamlin N. Lee, a veteran of the Mexican and Civil Wars and a relative of General Robert E. Lee, died here yesterday of heart failure, aged eighty-seven years. Although closely related to the Southern general and a Virginian by birth, Mr. Lee fought with the Union army. In the late 70's Mr. Lee went to Leadville and was the discoverer of the famous Robert B. Lee mine.

HORRIBLE WRECK ON SO. PACIFIC

Express Train Ran Into Open Switch; Ten Cars Were Derailed.

24 PERSONS WERE KILLED

One Hundred Injured—Most of the Dead Were Italians Riding in Smoking Car.

COLTON, CAL., March 28.—A disastrous wreck on the Southern Pacific occurred one and one-half miles east of here late this afternoon, when west-bound train No. 9, from New Orleans for San Francisco, ran into an open switch. Ten of the fourteen coaches were derailed. Twenty-six persons are known to have been killed, and the final list will probably total much higher. The injured number about 100.

The wrecked coaches were hurled in every direction and four were smashed into splinters. Most of the dead were Italians from New York and New Orleans, going to San Francisco. They occupied the smoker and day coach.

Eighteen corpses were brought to Colton this evening and eight additional bodies could be seen underneath one of the derailed coaches. This car could not be raised until a derrick was brought from Los Angeles, sixty miles away.

Two Americans Killed.

But two Americans are known to have been killed. George L. Sharp, of Muncie, Ind., was instantly killed. The passenger-man of the train, whose name has not been ascertained, also was killed. Engineer Clarence E. Worthington and Fireman Victor Crebb were caught in the wreckage and terribly burned.

One of about eighty Pullman passengers only two sustained serious injury. The three Pullman coaches and the diner, which were on the rear of the train, did not leave the track.

The Florence Roberts Theatrical Company occupied one coach, which was hurled from the track and both ends of it crushed in by impact against the others. Two of the twenty-two members of the company were injured. Miss Roberts escaped unhurt.

The escape from death of the occupants of this car was remarkable. The scenery and properties carried were destroyed. There were three tracks where the accident occurred, which is in the open country. The people of Colton were first to be notified of the catastrophe. Hundreds hurried to the scene, and physicians and nurses were brought from San Bernardino and Colton.

KILLED WIFE WITH PISTOL AND AXE

Jealous Husband Murders Woman in Most Atrocious Manner.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]
RONCEVERTE, W. VA., March 28.—A most horrible and shocking tragedy was enacted here last night about 10:30. Martin French, a colored teamster, about fifty-four years old, shot at his wife, Hannah French. Missing fire he grabbed an axe and split her head open. She died about 9 o'clock. Turning upon himself he cut his throat from ear to ear, causing instant death. French bore a very good character. Jealousy and family discord overbalanced his mind.

Kuroki for Jamestown.

TOKIO, March 28.—It was announced to-day that General Kuroki will represent the Japanese army at the Jamestown celebration.

MAKE RICHMOND A CLEANER CITY

Finance Committee obe Asked to Appropriate \$25,000.

CITY TO IMPROVE NEW FAIR GROUNDS

Committee Recommends Unanimously Expenditure of \$2,500 Therefor—Franchise Permitting S. A. L. Railway to Run Tracks Under Broad Street.

WHAT COMMITTEES RECOMMEND

Expenditure of \$2,500 for improving Fair Grounds. Franchise to Seaboard Air Line Railroad to run track under Broad Street. Appropriation of \$25,000 to make city clean and dustless. Survey and platting of annexed territory, at cost of \$21,000. Making June 14th Richmond Day at Jamestown Exposition. Establishing one new precinct each in Jefferson and Clay wards. Creating office of Assistant City Engineer, at \$1,500. Important step in improvement of Shockoe Creek taken.

The Council Committee on Streets had one of the most important meetings of the year yesterday afternoon, two matters of general interest and importance being before the body, and recommendations to the Council being made in each. One of these was the unanimous approval of a special appropriation of \$2,500, or so much thereof as may be necessary, for the improvement of the grounds of the Virginia State Fair Association, owned by the city.

The other important matter was the recommendation by the committee that the Seaboard Air Line Railway be granted a franchise to cross Broad Street below the street level, between Jail Alley and Sixteenth Street, in lieu of the present dangerous grade crossing at that point. The railroad proposes to construct a great freight depot in the valley just south of Broad Street, and west of the tracks leading from Broad Street into the passenger station. In consideration of this concession by the city, the railroad allows the city an easement in the right of way and property from Sixteenth Street to Grace, northward to the end of the present finished channel of Shockoe Creek, at Seventh and Highway Streets. This gives the city a channelway thirty feet wide covered up into the grounds upon which the fair was held last year. It was very important, as Mr. Page pointed out, that the grounds be improved at once, and that the grassed be sown, if the appearance of the grounds was to be creditable next October.

Subcommittee Pollock asked Colonel Cutshaw how many carts the city now had. The colonel said that there were over fifty at work on Monument Avenue, and none could be spared without jeopardizing the completion of that work before the Confederate reunion.

The general attitude of the committee was obviously in favor of lending the cars, but in view of the representations made by Colonel Cutshaw, Mr. Robert Whitlitt, Jr., moved that the Street Committee be authorized to call on the Council to appropriate \$2,500, or so much thereof as might be necessary, to make the improvement asked for by the State Fair Association. This motion prevailed.

Those present in support of this action were Mr. Sam H. Williams, chairman of the grounds and the Chamber of Commerce, Mr. E. T. D. Myers, Jr., and Mr. B. H. Ellington; from the Retail Merchants' Association, Mr. L. O. Miller.

Street Paving. The committee opened bids for the smooth paving (with asphalt block) on West Franklin Street, and also for the block on Floyd Avenue, from Cherry to Linden Streets, adjacent to the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart. No action was taken in the matter of awards. Bids were opened for granite curbs and spill gutters, and also for brick gutters.

The committee received bids for granolithic curbs, gutters and sidewalks on Monument Avenue, from Allison Street to the Boulevard. This means the prompt extension of this work.

A representative of the Stephen Putney Shoe Company appeared to ask paving in front of the large ware-houses of that company on West Broad Street, on the site of the old exposition grounds. This petition was referred to the City Engineer and the ward committee.

The usual large number of allegations were ordered and much other routine business was disposed of.

To Improve City.

At a meeting of the Committee on Street Cleaning, held in the office of the Superintendent last night, plans were discussed and action was taken looking to making Richmond a real "spotless town" during the Jamestown Exposition, or from about May 1st to December 1st. A committee from the Chamber of Commerce appeared to urge such action, but this was not needed, the committeemen themselves being as keenly alive to the matter and its importance as any citizen. The discussion of the various pro-